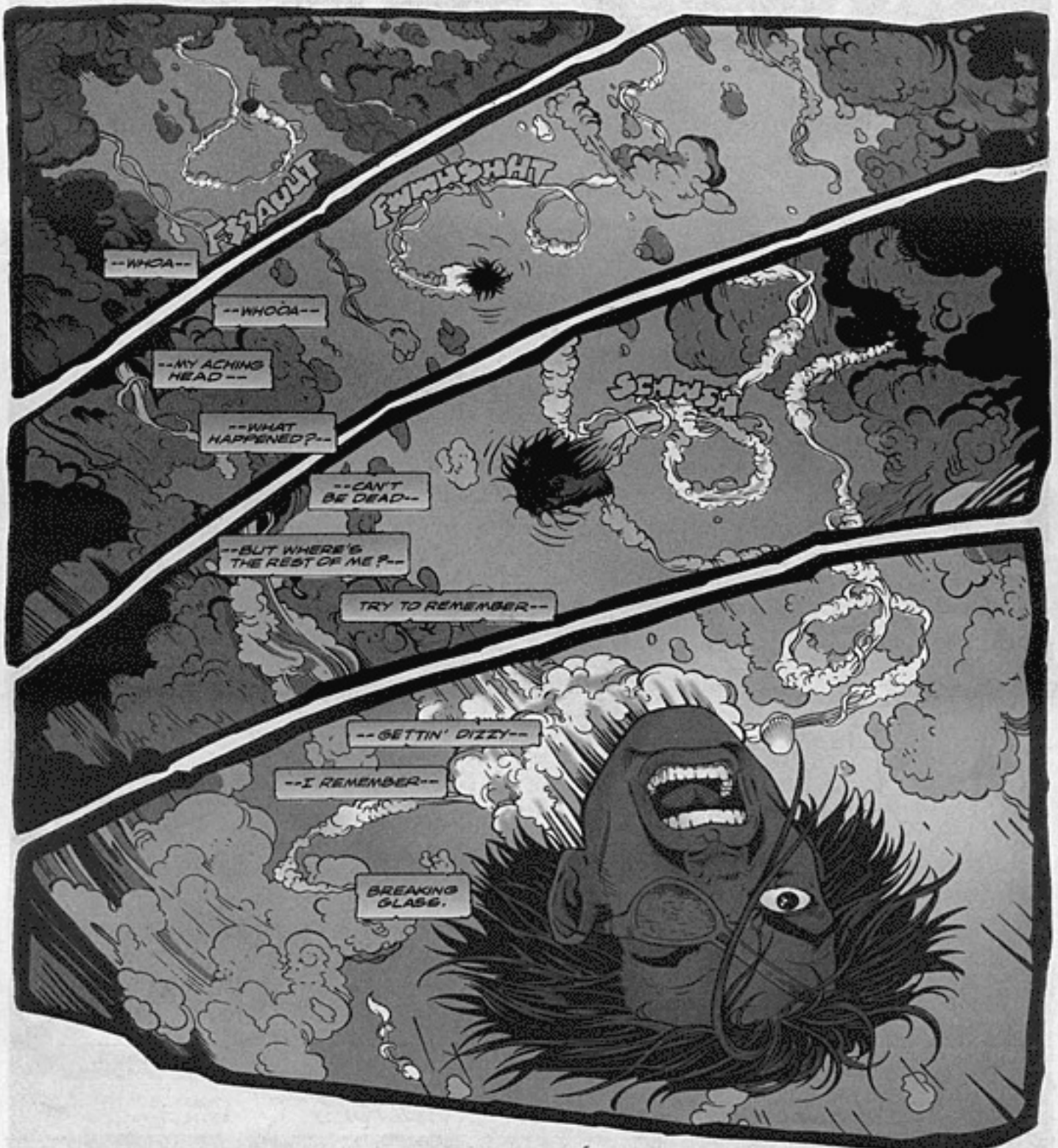
VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
6
feb
$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER
Ectokid
AT LAST! THE SENSES SHATTERING REUNION!
DEX FINDS HIS FATHER--
--AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!
DIRECT EDITION
00611
OBI
SKROCE 93
DVORAK

MEET DEX MUNGO, SOMETIME THIEF, FULL-TIME STREET RAT; HALF-HUMAN, AND HALF-GHOST. ENTER HIS REALM, THE ECTOSPHERE — A WONDROUS AND OFTEN DEADLY PLACE OF FANTASY, HORROR AND GRITTY ACTION, BETWEEN THE HERE AND THE HEREAFTER.



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HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED
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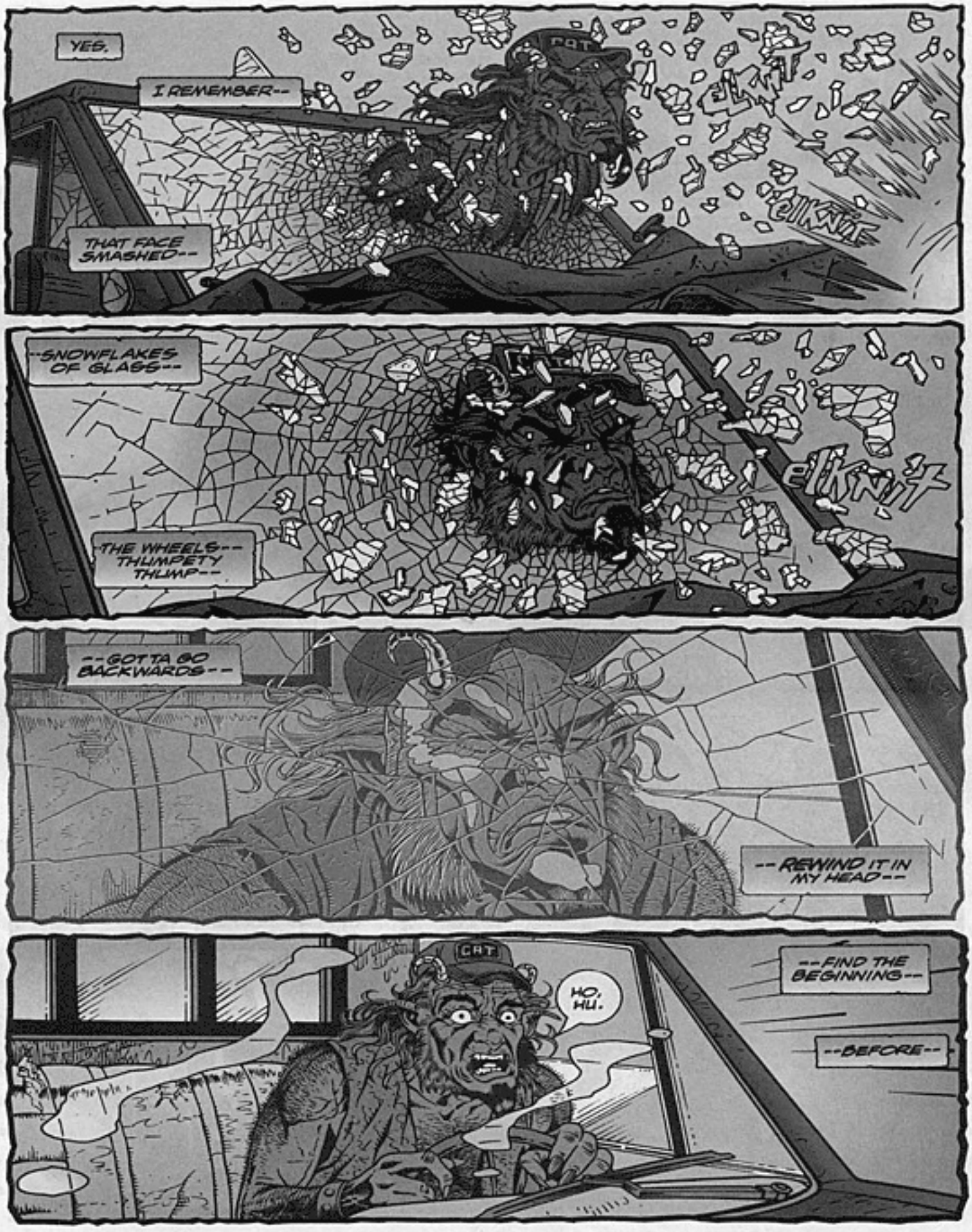
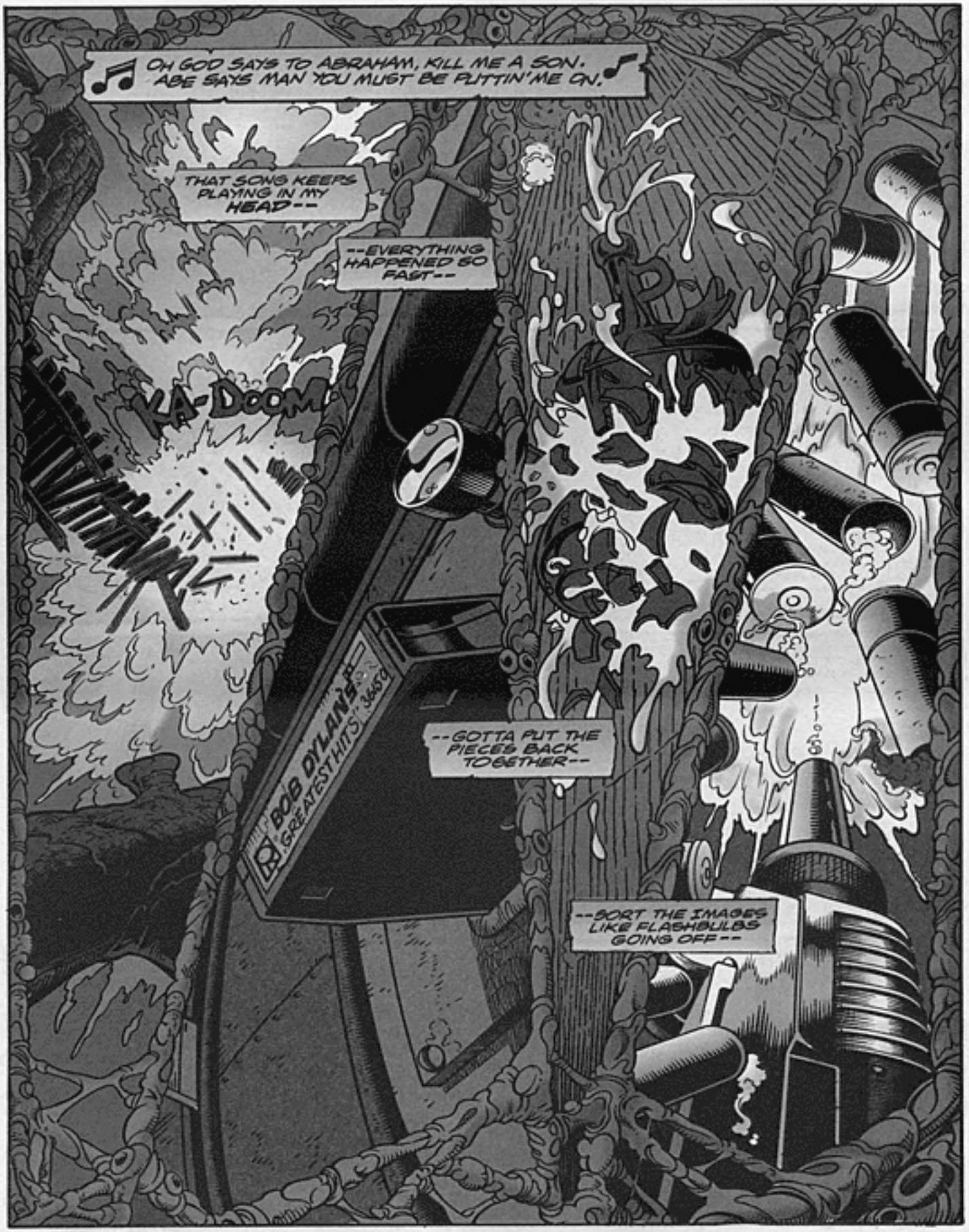
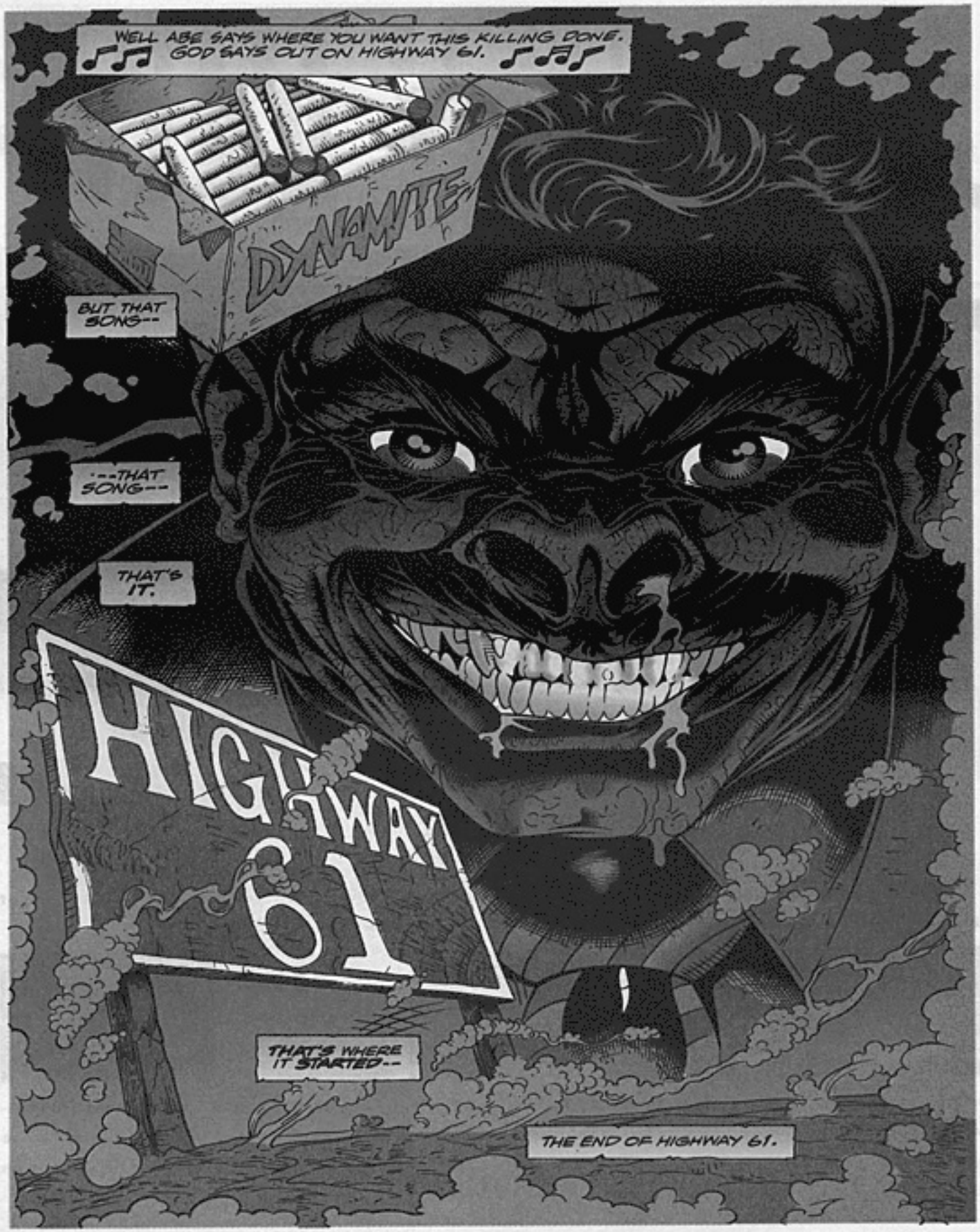
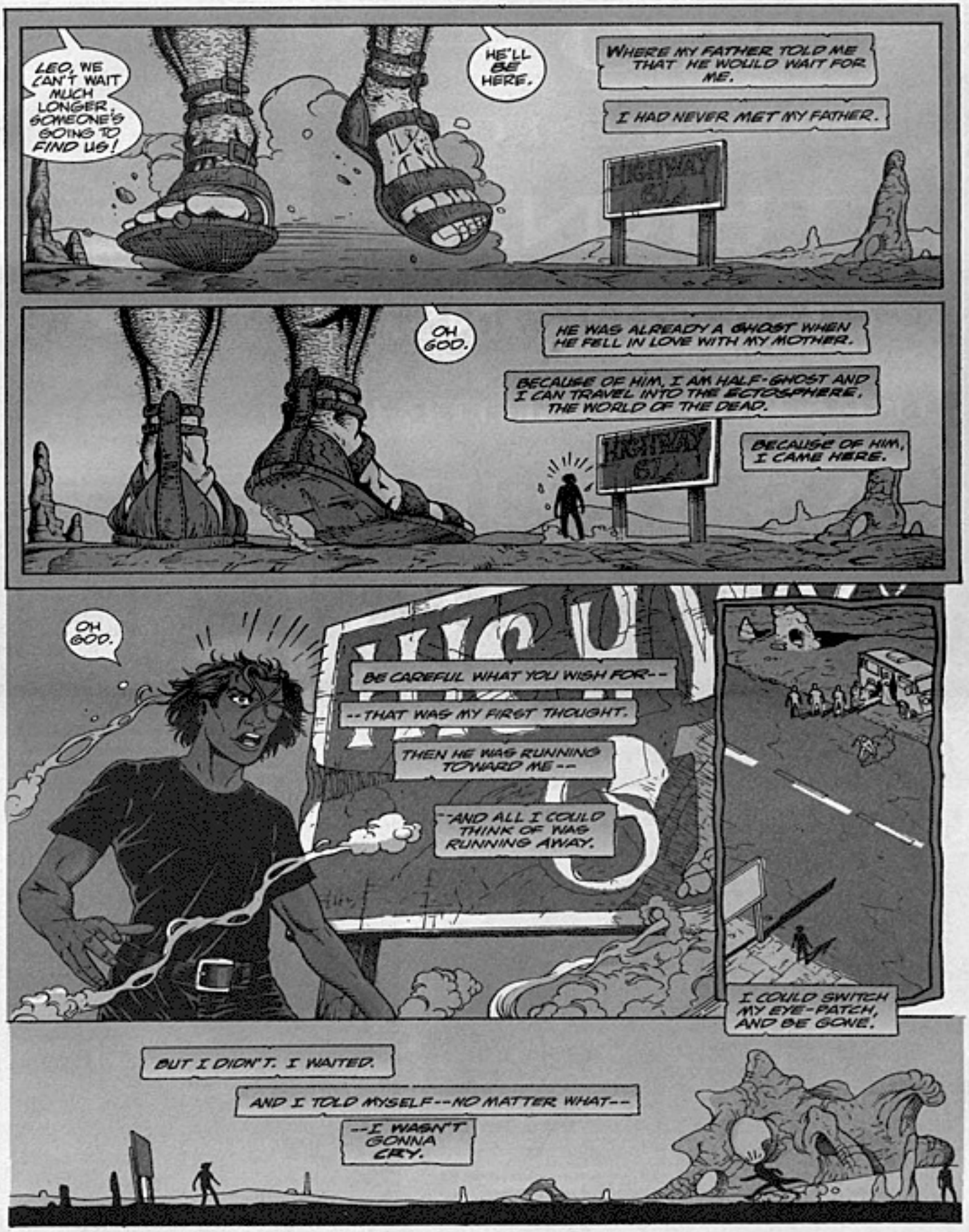
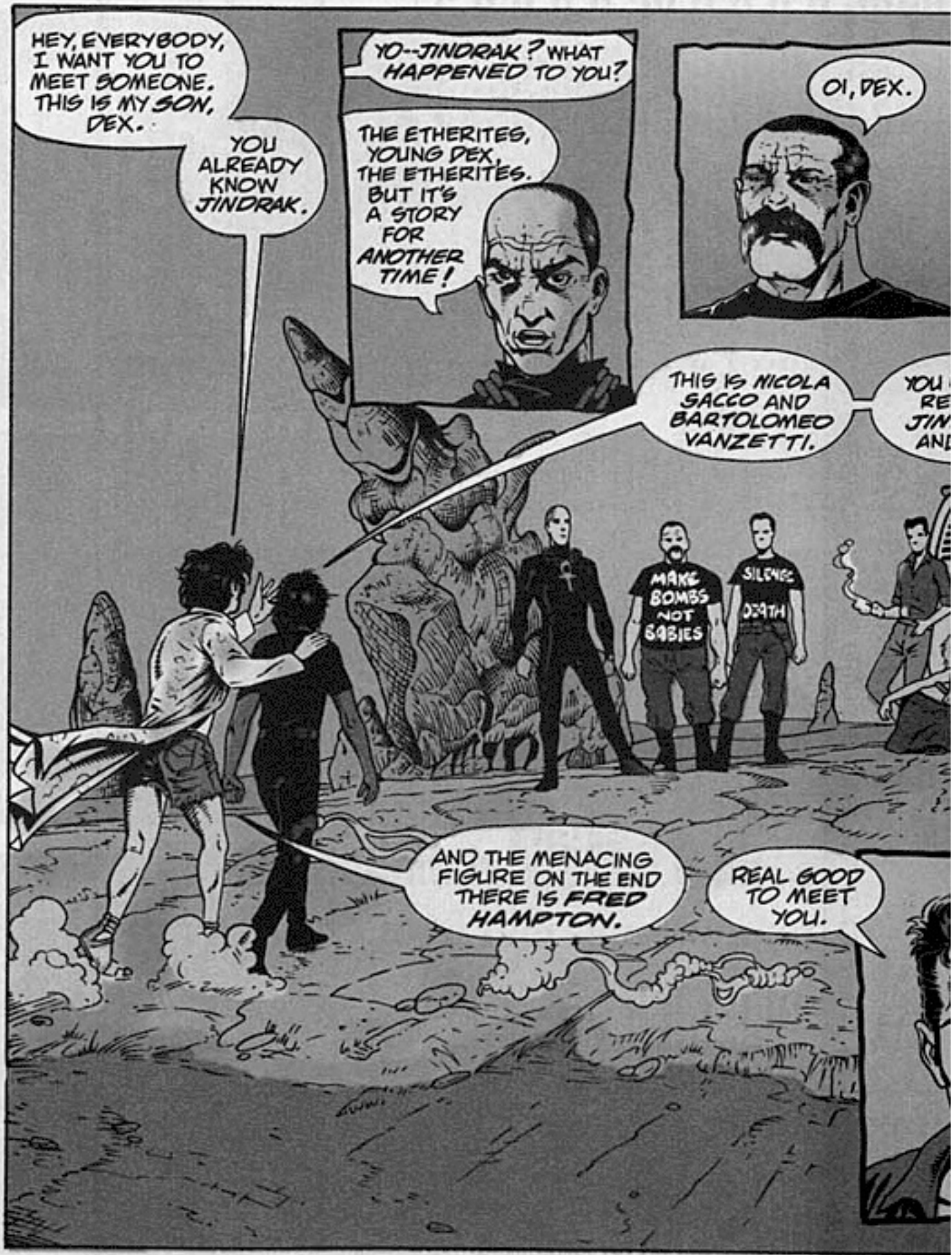

YEG.
I REMEMBER--
THAT FACE SMASHED--
CRT
elknit
--SNOWFLAKES OF GLASS--
THE WHEELS--- THUMPETY THUMP--
elknit
--GOTTA GO BACKWARDS--
--REWIND IT IN MY HEAD--
CRT
HO. HU.
--FIND THE BEGINNING--
--BEFORE--


OH GOD SAYS TO ABRAHAM, KILL ME A SON.
ABE SAYS MAN YOU MUST BE PUTTIN' ME ON.
THAT SONG KEEPS PLAYING IN MY HEAD--
--EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST--
KA-DOOM
BOB DYLAN'S GREATEST HITS
--GOTTA PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER--
--SORT THE IMAGES LIKE FLASHBULBS GOING OFF--

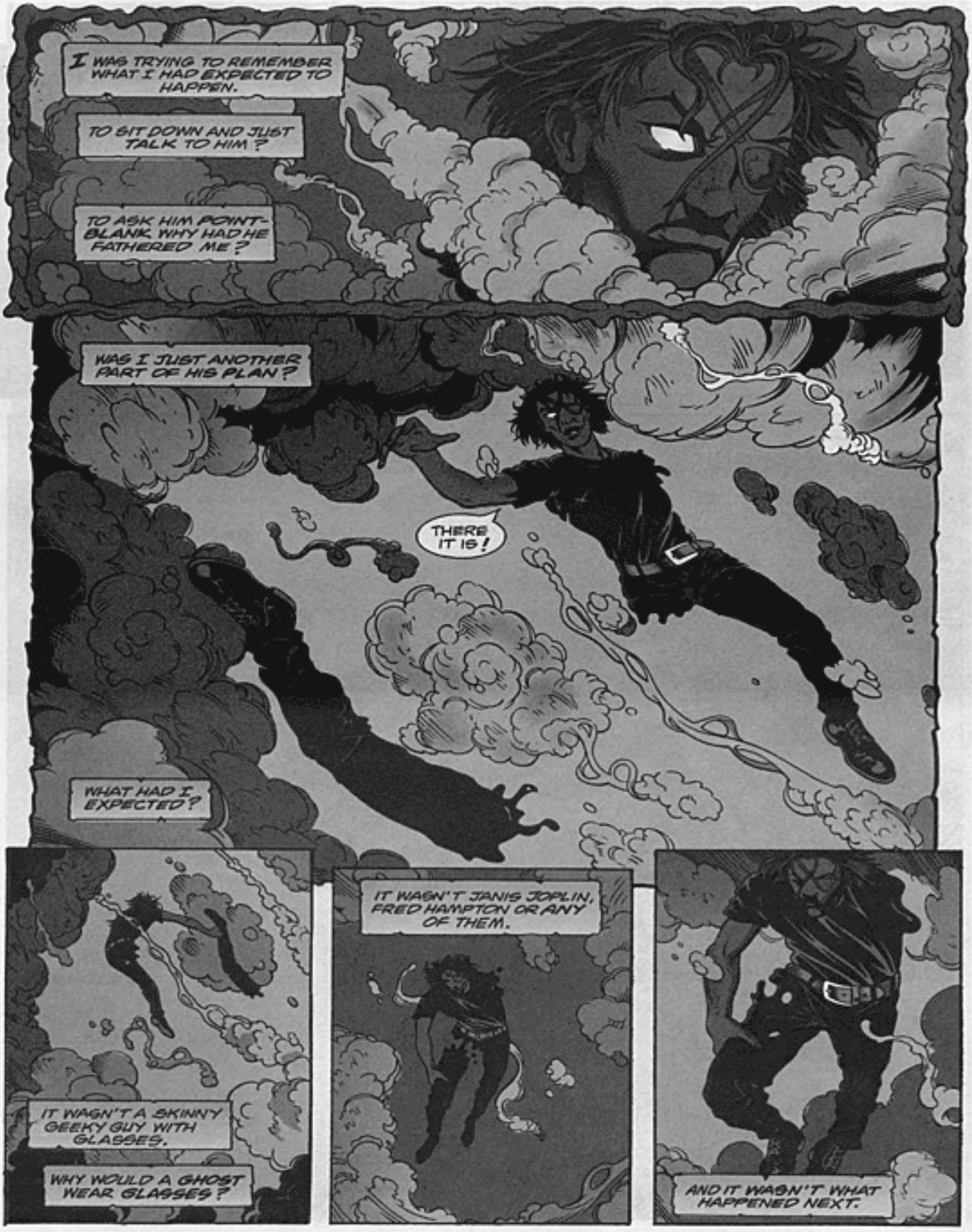

WELL ABE SAYS WHERE YOU WANT THIS KILLING DONE.
GOD SAYS OUT ON HIGHWAY 61.
DYNAMITE
BUT THAT SONG--
--THAT SONG--
THAT'S IT.
HIGHWAY 61
THAT'S WHERE IT STARTED--
THE END OF HIGHWAY 61.


LEO, WE CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER. SOMEONE'S GOING TO FIND US!
HE'LL BE HERE.
WHERE MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD WAIT FOR ME.
I HAD NEVER MET MY FATHER.
HIGHWAY 61
OH GOD.
HE WAS ALREADY A GHOST WHEN HE FELL IN LOVE WITH MY MOTHER.
BECAUSE OF HIM, I AM HALF-GHOST AND I CAN TRAVEL INTO THE ECTOSPHERE, THE WORLD OF THE DEAD.
BECAUSE OF HIM, I CAME HERE.
OH GOD.
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR--
--THAT WAS MY FIRST THOUGHT.
THEN HE WAS RUNNING TOWARD ME--
--AND ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS RUNNING AWAY.
I COULD SWITCH MY EYE-PATCH, AND BE GONE.
BUT I DIDN'T. I WAITED.
AND I TOLD MYSELF--NO MATTER WHAT--
--I WASN'T GONNA CRY.

HIGHWAY 61
OH GOD-- SON-- IT'S YOU-- IT'S REALLY YOU!
I TRY NOW TO REMEMBER WHAT IT FELT LIKE.
HIS ARMS AROUND ME--
I TRY TO REMEMBER ALL THE LITTLE THINGS.
THE TEXTURE OF HIS CLOTHES.
THE SMELL OF THEM.
IF I DON'T REMEMBER THE LITTLE THINGS--
--WHAT WILL TELL ME THAT IT WAS SOMETHING MORE--
--THAN JUST A DREAM?
JEEZ, LOOK AT ME BAWLING-- LISTEN, I HAVE A PREGENT FOR YOU, BUT I HAVE TO GET IT TO YOU LATER.
HIGHWAY 61
OH! AMBIDEX--
DEX, JUST DEX.
OH, WELL. C'MON, I WANT YOU TO MEET SOME OF MY FRIENDS.

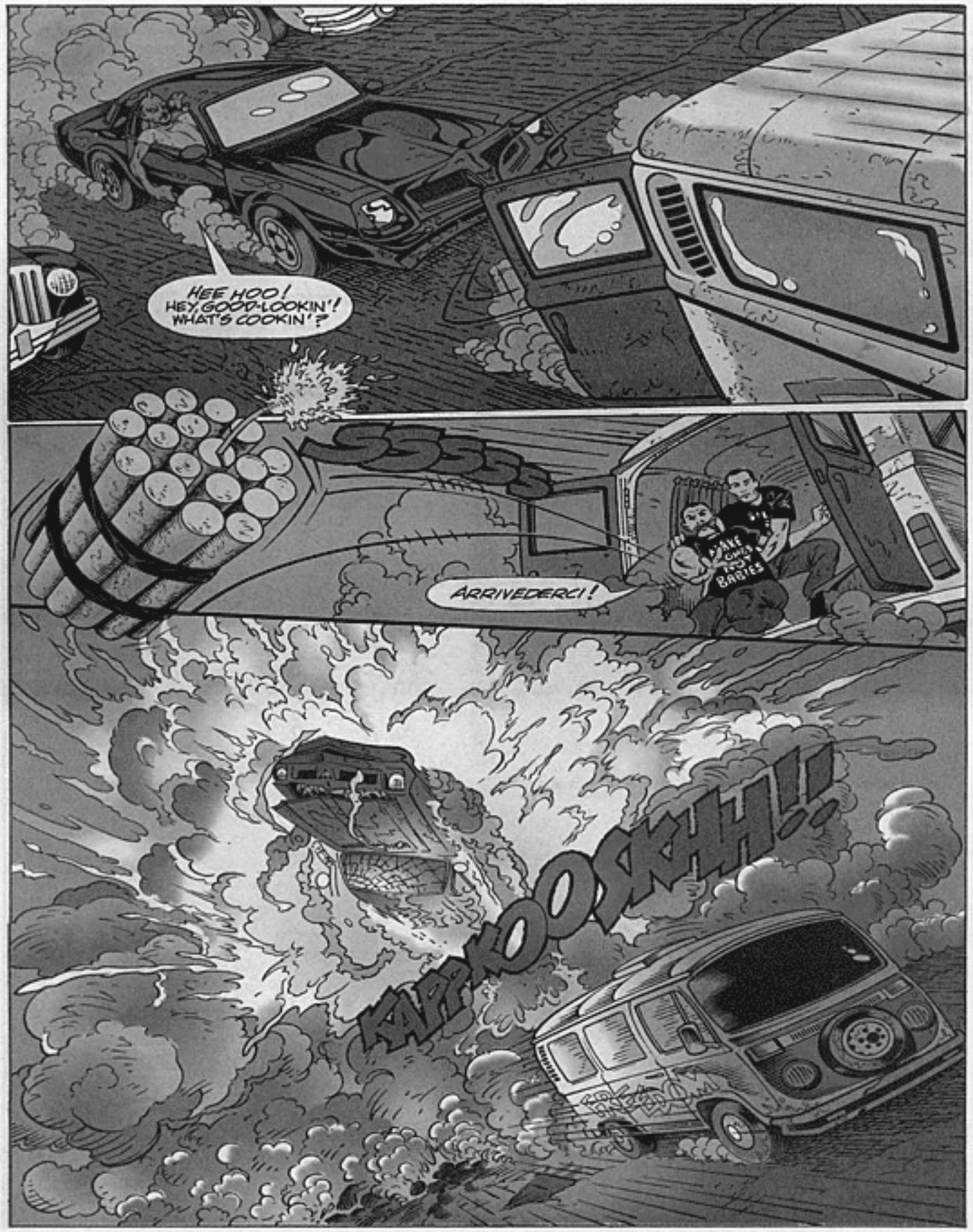

HEY, EVERYBODY, I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE. THIS IS MY SON, DEX.
YOU ALREADY KNOW JINDRAK.
YO--JINDRAK? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
THE ETHERITES, YOUNG DEX, THE ETHERITES. BUT IT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME!
OI, DEX.
THIS IS NICOLA SACCO AND BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI.
MAKE BOMBS NOT BABIES
SILENCE DEATH
AND THE MENACING FIGURE ON THE END THERE IS FRED HAMPTON.
REAL GOOD TO MEET YOU.

eh, TOTO.
PROBABLY
COGNIZE
MY DEAN
JANIS.
HIYA;
CUTIE.
AS SALAAM-
ALAIKUM,
YOUNGER
BROTHER.


I WAS TRYING TO REMEMBER WHAT I HAD EXPECTED TO HAPPEN.
TO SIT DOWN AND JUST TALK TO HIM?
TO ASK HIM POINT-BLANK WHY HAD HE FATHERED ME?
WAS I JUST ANOTHER PART OF HIS PLAN?
THERE IT IS!
WHAT HAD I EXPECTED?
IT WASN'T A SKINNY GEEKY GUY WITH GLASSES.
WHY WOULD A GHOST WEAR GLASSES?
IT WASN'T JANIS JOPLIN, FRED HAMPTON OR ANY OF THEM.
AND IT WASN'T WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

WE GOT COMPANY.
I REMEMBER THE ROAR OF ANGRY ENGINES--
--STAMPEDING SMOKE AND CHROME.
ONE THING I WAS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND--
--MY DAD SURE HAS A LOT OF ENEMIES--
--FOR A DEAD MAN.

AW, NO. YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME, THE TAPE AGAIN?
'GREATEST HITS'
LEO, I GET NERVOUS WHEN YOU PLAY THAT TAPE.
THIS IS IT, GUYS, WHERE IT ALL HAPPENS, LIKE GOD SAYS, OUT ON HIGHWAY 61.
DAD, WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?
A TROLL NAMED GRUNGE AND HIS GOONS.
HE'S LIKE A LOAN SHARK-- I OWE HIM-- MY SOUL.
CAN YOU USE THIS?
WHERE DID ALL THIS STUFF COME FROM?
WE MADE IT, DEX. ECTOPLASM IS ENERGY, YOU CAN CREATE ALMOST ANYTHING. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD HAVE FIGURED THAT OUT ALREADY.
DAI FRATELLO FA LO!
O.K. VA BENE HEH, HEH, HEH.


HEE HOO! HEY, GOOD-LOOKIN'! WHAT'S COOKIN'?
SSSSS
ARRIVEDERCI!
KAPPKOOOKKH!!

FWHOOOSH
P-TINK
P-TINK
I CAN SMELL YOU, LITTLE BOY.
YOU CAN SMELL ME? HON--WHO SAID THAT?
HEY, BABY, RELAX. THAT'S JUST THAT FAT PIG GRUNGE, PLAYING MIND GAMES.
HERE, HAVE SOME. I MADE IT MYSELF.
I REMEMBER THE TASTE OF JANIS JOPLIN'S SOUL. WOW.
GLOOG GLOOG GLOOG
AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW WHY SHE THREW OUT THE BOTTLE.
BUT NOW, I GUESS THAT'S WHO SHE WAS.
KR-KRISH
WHAT SHE IS.

I REMEMBER THE STEADY THUNDER OF FRED'S SHOT GUN.
OH, YEAH, COME ON!
KA-CHIK
YOU UGLY--
BOOM
--MUTHER!
KA-CHIK
IS THAT ALL YOU GOT?
BOOM!
GLAAGK!!
SIT YOUR TAIL DOWN!
KA-CHIK
WHO ELSE WANTS SOME?
SON--I HAVE TO TELL YOU-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE--
THE AURAT. THE AURAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING--
LOOK OUT!!
DOOGA! DOOGA! DOOGA! DOOGA!
FAHRRG!

EH, FREDO!
ESPECIAL DELIVERY!!
ALL RIGHT, THEN, BROTHERS!
CIAO, CHUMPS!
SSSSSSSS
KARUH-DOOMM

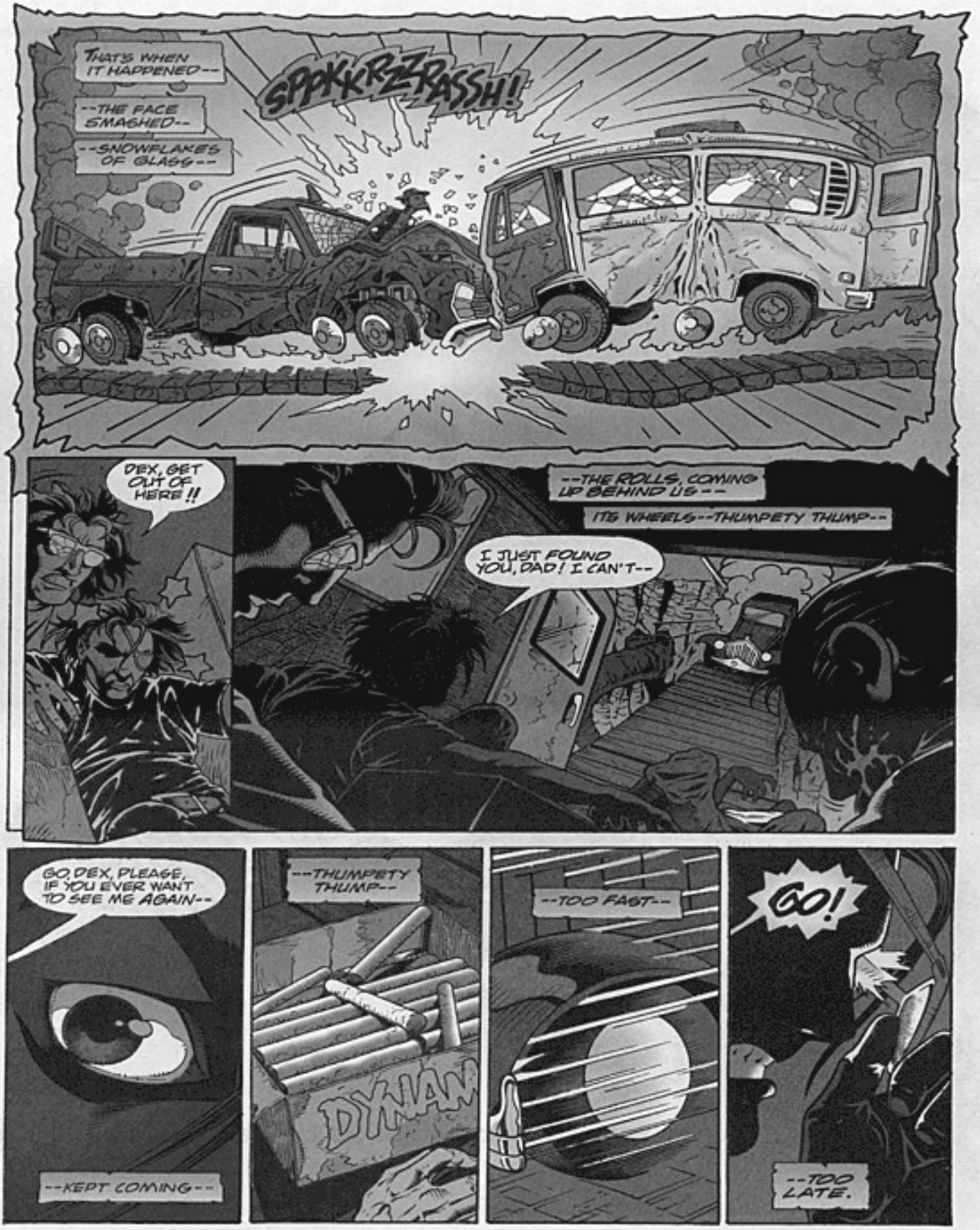
DEMON DEBRIS LITTERED THE ECTOSPHERIC HIGHWAY. JIMMY WAS PUTTING EVERYTHING HE HAD INTO THE VW.
I THOUGHT WE WERE HOME FREE.
SLOW! BRIDGE AHEAD
NOW WE HAVE THEM.

LISTEN, THE AURAT IS STILL WITH MY BODY. THOSE AUGUSTINE IDIOTS NEVER REALIZED I KEPT IT WITH ME.
IT WAS HIDDEN INSIDE MY GUITAR CASE IN THE TRUNK OF MY CAR.

BUT WHERE IS YOUR BODY?

I DON'T KNOW. AIN'T THAT A TRIP? THEY DUMPED IT SOMEWHERE. YOU HAVE TO FIND IT!
LEO. WE GOT A PROBLEM!

A PROBLEM?
IMMA GUNNA GEMMEM MISSER GRUNGE GUNNA OWEME CUZ IMMA GUNNA GEMMEM GOOD.
JIMMY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I AIN'T NO CHICKEN.
uh oh


THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED--
--THE FACE SMASHED--
--SNOWFLAKES OF GLASS--
SPPKKRZZRASSH!
DEX, GET OUT OF HERE!!
--THE ROLLS, COMING UP BEHIND US--
ITS WHEELS--THUMPETY THUMP--
I JUST FOUND YOU, DAD! I CAN'T--
GO, DEX, PLEASE, IF YOU EVER WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN--
--KEPT COMING--
--THUMPETY THUMP--
DYNAN
--TOO FAST--
GO!
--TOO LATE.

SPCHHHBRRRRRRRRRSTCH!

I FIGURED IT WAS ALL OVER.
LIKE THE SONG, ALL DONE.
BUT THEN I REMEMBERED. ECTOPLASM IS ENERGY, HE SAID.
YOU CAN TRANSFORM IT. ABSORB IT.
BUT YOU CAN'T DESTROY IT THE WAY YOU CAN DESTROY FLESH.
THAT MEANS THEY'RE STILL ALIVE. OR WHATEVER.
NOW WHAT DAD NEEDS IS FOR ME TO FIND THE AURAT.
WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME TO GO--
HOME.

A REAL BRIDGE.
I FIND MY BODY RIGHT WHERE I LEFT IT, HIDDEN OFF OF THE REAL HIGHWAY 61.
AND THE IMAGES ARE ALREADY STARTING TO FADE.
DID IT EVEN HAPPEN?
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, DID I REALLY MEET MY FATHER?
DID HE REALLY PUT HIS ARMS AROUND ME?
OR WAS IT JUST A DREAM--
WHAT THE--??
"I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU"
"BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET IT TO YOU LATER."
HOW DID YOU DO IT? MORE OF YOUR FRIENDS?
THIS WAS YOURS, WASN'T IT? FITS PRETTY GOOD.
THANKS, DAD.
IT MEANS A LOT.
DEX RISKS EVERYTHING FOR THE LIFE OF HIS MOM, WHEN HE CONFRONTS THE AUGUSTINES IN: "YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE MOTHER"!

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
RAZORLINE
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NEW YORK, NY 10016

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SPENCER LAMM • ASST. EDITOR
MALCOLM SMITH • CONSULTING EDITOR

EctoKid

Just for fun, we're sending everyone who wrote in this month an oversized photostatic reproduction of the cover to this issue, signed by Steve, Bob, and Larry. Just another perk to getting us your comments. Keep 'em coming!

Dear Ectokid,

O.K., so we're off! I was impressed by the origin of Dex. I expected more in the beginning, but now see that the beginning was not the whole story at all. It's not the story I first thought it was, so I will stay with the Kid — at least for awhile.

Doug Ackert
28 East Adams Street
East Islip, NY 11730

Thanks for writing, Doug. The whole story is *far* from being told. As soon as the next issue, Dex faces challenges that make what has come so far seem bland; seem impossible? Stick around!!!

To the Razorline team,

I am a very big fan of Clive Barker, so when I saw that he was going to have four new comics, I couldn't wait for them to come out. I heard about the comics just before I saw Clive's art show in NYC. At the show, I got more info. From then on I was always asking comic shops about dates for their releases. Well, they have arrived and now I have something to look forward to every week. If asked to choose one as my favorite, I would say ECTOKID. I love everything about this comic.

When I first read about them, I was a little weary about Hyperkind and Hokum & Hex. I am not really into the super hero-type comics. Then I got the first issues and found out how wrong I was! These are great stories. I should never have doubted the mind of Clive Barker. Now I just finished Saint Sinner #3 (when I sat down to read this, I should have known that I would need my brain to read it, unlike many comics out there). So reading it through, I realized that I was going to need to concentrate on what I was reading. I did have to go back and read it again, and then I realized — this is brilliant. The only criticism I can give is DON'T CHANGE ANYTHING! Everything is just fine.

Mark Gyscek
12 Davis Place Apt. #1
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

It's always good to hear from a reader who can think, Mark. Thanks for writing. But if you think we've stretched your mind as far as we can...guess again. The stories only get better from here!

Dear Razorline,

I have to confess that I thought it might be a little premature to write to you with my impressions. After all, the Barkerverse is still in a molten stage and the characters are still establishing themselves (which is great, by the way. I would much rather have a sense of the mysteries to come than have everything spelled out in the first issue.) I thought I'd wait a little farther down the Razorline to comment. But the Razorline is so good, I decided to write now.

It might not have been intentional, but I like the way the four titles balance each other in tone, making the whole greater than the sum of its parts. HYPERKIND (body), ECTOKID (spirit), HOKUM & HEX (humor), SAINT SINNER (sadness). It'll be interesting to see how you treat the crossovers.

I also love that these books don't depend on steroids and automatic weaponry. The momentum of the books are elsewhere: good stories!!!

Now some details: the temptation to have Dex Mungo meet famous dead people is, I'm sure, very great indeed and presents lots of possibilities. There's a danger, though, of turning it into an ectoplasmic "Young Indiana Jones." And you know what happened to that!

Exploit the deeper meanings of comedy and humor in Hokum & HEX, the trickster Mythos that Clive mentions. Isn't laughter literally a healing force in some medical cases? Give Trip confidence and really go to town with the potential of his character.

To reiterate something I said at the top, don't tell us too much. Let us keep a sense of unplumbed depths in the Barkerverse and unexplained mysteries.

What none of the previous criticisms make clear, however, is how much I'm enjoying watching the Razorline slowly grow and expand. I'm looking forward to what you've got planned down the road. To criticize such a project at all seems ungrateful. Thanks for all of the hard work.

Now can you maybe hint at some of the things around the corner?

Robert W. Getz
1411 Sinkler Road
Warminsater, PA 18974

Sure can, Robert. The future is bright. In the near future we look forward to the first all-inclusive Razorline crossover. In it, get ready to be blown away! The Earth is in danger, not of being destroyed, but of being subsumed by a being of overwhelming proportions! Trip Munroe (HOKUM & Hex) learns to be a hero. Philip Fetter (SAINT SINNER) falls in love. It's an event that will change the boundaries of the Barkerverse forever and it all starts in HYPERKIND #10. Be there or we'll talk about you!!!

Dear Ectokid,

This is a book I can read and read and read! The art is as eye-grabbing as to make this candy for the soul, but Steve Skroce is powerful enough to make this more than just fluff. Steve Skroce has a future in comics, currently producing some of the best art Marvel has printed in a long time.

Now, as to the Razorline titles. . .they're great!!! Over all, these are the best books ever to grace the shops. I'm reading them all. HYPERKIND is my second favorite book, with HOKUM & HEX coming in an easy third, leaving SAINT SINNER to come in last, but still far from a book I don't like. I collect all four books, and when I go to the shop consider them the most important of the books I buy. Keep up the good work.

But I do love ECTOKID the most. What I love so much about it is Dex and his amazing ability to manipulate ectoplasm. This is just too cool a power!!! How powerful is ectoplasm in the physical world? I've got to know! Are we going to learn more about his powers? Please...Please...please... I'll be reading!!!

John Bilghmes
(Address withheld by request)

Good to have you as a reader, John. Thanks for writing. We're glad you're interested in our pal Dex. Get ready, because in the next few months, Dex learns quite a bit more about what he can and *can't* do with ectoplasm. You don't want to miss out, do you? Then don't miss an issue!!!

NEXT:

At last! Armed with the location of the Aurat, Dex confronts Ice and Tom Augustine! Will he trade the power of the Aurat for the life of his mother? It's personal tragedy, or the end of the world in. . .

"You've Only Got One Mother!"

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!

Next week in HOKUM & HEX #6:

Trip is back in New York City; a media celebrity! Will all this unwanted attention give the Earth's mightiest mortal magician a swelled head — or a busted gut? Find out as he goes head-to-head with the champion of Felon Bale, Bloodshed! Part one of four!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

In SAINT SINNER #6:

The origin of the mysterious refugee from the Ectosphere, Crooked-Face Half-Head, on the eve of a disaster that will shake all the worlds of the Decamundi — but the price of averting it may be a child's life!

In HYPERKIND #7:

Armata's near death and her only hope of survival is for the team to solve a riddle locked within a children's rhyme! But even the answers will not prepare them for the dangers on. . ."The Shining Path. . .to Ambertrance!"